



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
May 11, 2006

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BLM Imposes Fire Restrictions on Public Lands in West-Central New Mexico

The Bureau of Land Management has imposed fire restrictions on public lands it administers in Bernalillo, Cibola, Sandoval, Valencia, Socorro and Catron Counties because of extreme fire hazard conditions throughout the area.

The restrictions prohibit smoking outside of vehicles or buildings. Open campfires are not permitted outside of developed sites and fireworks are prohibited. The following actions are prohibited on BLM public land in the above counties effective May 12, 2006, until further notice:

Burning of solid fuels, except in campfire rings or grills within designated campgrounds or developed recreation sites, or when authorized by permit. Petroleum-fueled stoves, lanterns, or heating devices that meet Fire Underwriters' Laboratories safety specifications are allowed.

Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building.

Using an explosive requiring fuse blasting caps.

Operating a chainsaw without an approved spark arrester and without a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher of not less than 8 ounces capacity by weight, and one round point shovel. The extinguisher will be with the equipment operator. The shovel may be kept with fueling supplies but readily available for use.

Welding or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame, except within an area that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials at least 10 feet on all sides from equipment.

The use of fireworks is ALWAYS prohibited on Federal Land. Violations of the above prohibitions are punishable by fines and/or imprisonment.

For additional information about current fire restrictions in New Mexico, please visit http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/information/firerestrictions/restrictions_closures.htm or call 1-877-864-6985.

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